

KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
Minutes of meeting June 9, 1998

Present: Commissioners –

Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commissioner
Kathryn Eckert, Advisor, National Trust for Michigan
Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor

National Park Service –

Frank Fiala, KNHP Superintendent
Josef Balachowski, Historical Architect
Lynn Bjorkman, Community Planner
Al Hutchings, Associate Regional Director for Legislation and Policy

Recording Secretary –

Lisa Dwyer, Michigan Technological University

Absent: Burt Boyum, QMHA

Mary Tuisku, Council Person, City of Hancock

Special Guest: Stan Dyl, Director, Seaman Mineral Museum, MTU

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, June 9, 1998, in Calumet, Michigan at Park Headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by the Advisory Commission.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the February 24, 1998, meeting were reviewed and accepted with no additions or corrections.

Superintendent's Report

Frank Fiala reported that the Hancock water tower issue has been resolved. The rock berm will be removed along with the concrete storage tank. A replacement steel structure will be erected adjacent to the existing steel structure. With this revised water tower plan, the character and integrity of the district will be maintained, according to Fiala. The existing structure will be photodocumented and removed at a later date. The replacement water tower should meet the needs of the city of Hancock, and Quincy and Franklin Township.

A traffic study was done at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Campus Drive. As a result, concerns were raised regarding traffic flow to the park, high school, and hospital. Because of these concerns, the intersection was redesigned. Fiala displayed a drawing of the intersection and how it affects the National Historic Landmark district.

Fiala added that the relationship between the city of Hancock, hospital officials, and the park staff has been very good and all are working together to resolve issues.

Fiala met with Calumet Township and UP Engineering regarding the Renaissance Zone project in that area. The township has agreed with the park to set aside the entire Red Jacket Mine shaft area for

historic interpretive purposes. The township, UP Engineering, and the park have agreed to work cooperatively on that project.

Fiala said he regretfully accepted the resignation of Ed Yarbrough who left to take on the position of manager of the Quincy Mine Hoist Association. Fiala added that Yarbrough's park staff position was a term appointment and due to end soon. Yarbrough's new position will benefit both the QMHA and the park and help the partnership of the park and the association.

The Michigan congressional delegates have testified and submitted letters in support of a request for increased funding in the amount of \$950,000 for KNHP and designated to be implemented during FY 1999. The request is to cover three areas of park funding where there is a shortfall. First, the Park's Advisory Commission should be funded to facilitate their management responsibilities. The park also needs operating money in support of maintenance, resource protection, and staffing. Finally, the Park has identified some key resources for acquisition, which would help establish park presence and add to the visitor's experience.

Fiala distributed a handout which listed the parks in this region and their priority for FY2000 funding saying that KNHP is ranked no. 8 on the list indicating that there is more of an awareness of our park now.

Senator Carl Levin is scheduled to bring Donald Barry, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, to the Keweenaw sometime this summer.

Two successful KNHP projects were selected by the Omaha Regional Office to be funded (totaling \$16,000) through the Challenge Cost Share program. A total of fourteen projects were selected from this park's region. Fiala added that Old Victoria received one of the funded projects through the Challenge Cost Share program in the amount of \$10,000.

Park headquarters will be moving down to the first floor of the building in which it is currently located. A lease has been signed with the owners of the building for \$20,000, which runs through September 1999. The Midwest Regional Office is supporting that lease with \$15,000.

A cooperating agreement has been made with the National Historic Landmark program to map the historic resources in the Quincy unit. The project has been funded for \$6,800. Fiala hopes to continue funding of some kind from that program on a yearly basis.

Two park superintendents will visit KNHP in July to conduct a reallocation review. They will evaluate the park's programs and make a recommendation to the regional office.

Fiala distributed copies of KNHP FY 2000 acquisition funding needs along with the copy of the cover memo, which was sent to the Midwest Support Office. Listed by priority, the first is acquisition of the Calumet and Hecla Administrative Office and Library; second is the Calumet and Hecla Warehouse No. 1, and third is the Calumet Union Building. Fiala said that he just received word from the regional office that the park will try to acquire the Union Building under the hardship clause of Land and Water Conservation funding.

Fiala distributed a copy of the wording that was submitted by Senator Abraham on the Senate floor to change the park legislation and make the Advisory Commission an operating commission. Fiala said he hopes to have the issue resolved sometime this year.

Letters went out to all parties concerned on May 15, 1998, to solicit new nominees for the Advisory Commission. The two at-large seats are available for submission at any time.

Fiala attended the Michigan Historic Preservation conference recently as well as a new superintendent's course. Both Fiala and Ed Yarbrough will be attending the National Trust for Historic Preservation Leadership Training Institute. Fiala said he also attended recent meetings sponsored by the Keweenaw Tourism Council.

Fiala noted that the park has been receiving some good publicity recently. He displayed a poster designed in recognition of KNHP's 5th anniversary. A copy of the poster was published on the back cover of the magazine Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In addition, the Milwaukee Journal published a lengthy article on the Copper Country.

Fiala announced that the General Management Plan is expected to be officially approved by the middle of June. He distributed copies of the final GMP document.

Community Planner's Report

Lynn Bjorkman reported on the Calumet Township housing survey of mapping and photography of more than 1000 properties. Processing and organizing more than 3000 photographs will be finished this summer. Joseph Mehall has done much of the work on this project according to Bjorkman. Funding for this was through a grant from the Park Service regional office to Calumet Township. Bjorkman is also doing a very brief survey of mine housing in the Quincy area under the direction of Nancy Fisher, a recent graduate from the Industrial Archaeology master's program at Michigan Tech. Agassiz Park community awareness activities are continuing. This is the 75th anniversary of Warren Manning's completion of the Agassiz Park design. Bjorkman recently presented a paper on Warren Manning and the landscape design work he has done both here and in Arizona and will be presenting another paper again on Manning on Midwestern landscape. Bjorkman continues to work with the Calumet Village Downtown Development Authority and the Calumet Village Planning Commission to move forward on a historic district ordinance. The Public Investment Survey is nearly complete. John Garbor, has voluntarily put much time and effort into the survey. Copies of a summary of the survey were distributed. The data collected from cooperating sites is summarized in the categories of Revenue and Expense, Sources of Revenue by Percent, Facilities Improvements, and Visitor Numbers.

Historical Architect's Report

Josef Balachowski is continuing his work with the City of Hancock and Portage Health Systems to resolve Campus Drive alignment at the Quincy unit. He has been working with Hitch, Inc. to work on the final details of the intersection to take full advantage of the existing road and provide the safest possible traffic flow. He has been assisting architect, John Haro, of Scottsdale, Arizona in developing a preliminary scheme for the new Seaman Museum facility. He is conferring with Stan Dyl, director of the Seaman Museum and staff members to further identify specific requirements for various components of the museum design. The plan is to relocate the museum from Michigan Tech to Quincy Hill utilizing two former mining buildings at Quincy – the blacksmith shop and the machine shop. Balachowski is currently working with Quincy Mine Hoist Association and several individuals in the local construction industry to begin stabilization of these buildings this summer. He has also met with the construction manager of the new Portage Health System who has volunteered some of his time to advise on how best to stabilize the structures.

Chairman's Report

Paul Lehto reported on the activities of Calumet Township. The \$400,000 grant from the Michigan Jobs Commission for the Renaissance Zone project went through the process of a historic review and was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office. Patrick Martin, faculty member of the Social Sciences Department at Michigan Tech was hired to do the review. In his review, Martin recommended that the Red Jacket site be placed on the National Register. The township has been working on the historic walking trail with Josef Balachowski. The signs are in place on the trail. The same type of walking trail will be done at Waterworks Park and is projected to cost about \$50,000.

Lehto also reported that Tom Moyle of Moyle Construction is putting a new roof on a mining building of substantial size on his property south of Swedetown Road. Apparently he just wants to stabilize the building which Lehto said is welcome news. The building was probably used for housing mules which were used underground in the mines. Lehto also announced that Calumet Township will be submitting its Advisory Commission appointment recommendations very soon. A project will be undertaken to catalog 40 to 50 historic properties in Calumet Township so that information such as what the structures are made of, who owns them, and the state of their repair or disrepair can be readily accessed.

Reports and Comments from the Commissioners

Clarence Dwyer asked if there is any kind of escape clause in the lease between KNHP and the owners of the building where park headquarters is located that would allow the owners to sell the building before the park has a chance to buy it. Fiala explained that there is a gentleman's agreement between the owners and the park to allow the park to lease the building until it can purchase it. The lease is guaranteed until 1999. Dwyer expressed concern that the C & H Library building would not be obtainable by the park because of the price possibly being set high. Fiala assured Dwyer that the highest priority of the park during FY 2000 is to obtain both the C & H Administrative Office Building and the Library building. Dwyer reported on activities at Houghton County Airport noting that the new airport sign on the highway should add to the attention of the airport and new winter equipment in the amount of \$200,000 to \$300,000 has been purchased. Dwyer announced that he must resign from the park Advisory Commission due to other work commitments. He said he has enjoyed being a part of the commission and will stay involved in some way with park efforts.

Kathryn Eckert said that the Americana Foundation recently awarded a grant in the amount \$17,000 to the St. Anne's Church project. The grant submitted by Reverend Robert Langseth originally had requested \$66,000 but the foundation board of trustees elected to fund the portion of the grant for the engineering preservation study only. This is the first time the foundation has awarded a grant in the Upper Peninsula. Eckert said she is delighted that Fiala and Yarbrough will be in Traverse City for the Preservation Leadership training workshop sponsored by the National Trust. Eckert distributed a copy of correspondence she had with a Mrs. William Liddicoat who owns property at the Central Mine location. Mrs. Liddicoat is very concerned, as is Eckert, about the removal of poor rock piles at Central, a National Register district. It hasn't been determined if the county or private parties are removing the piles. Eckert added that efforts should be made to educate local units of government and private parties that this removal is devastating the landscape. Even though it is not in park boundaries it is still a part of the Keweenaw mining landscape. Fiala said he is planning on meeting with Mrs. Liddicoat this summer to discuss the issue and will notify the Advisory Commission at the next meeting of any action or solutions to the problem. Stan Dyl, director of the Seaman Mineral Museum, added that the mineral collector and rock hound community is very aware of the significance of this area and the importance of potential collecting sites here. This group would be a good source of support for any serious effort to preserve rock piles.

Larry Lankton noted that it is a very pleasant change of pace to see the progress made in certain directions regarding activities of KNHP. He said he is glad to see the water tower issue resolved and the redesign of the intersection at U.S. 41 and Campus Drive.

Lankton asked Balachowski what the status of the bathhouse is on Quincy Hill. Balachowski said there has been some talk of adaptive ways to reuse that building but there are no definite ideas even though there is concern for the building by both the hospital and QMHA. Lankton added that this is a good example of how attitudes are changing when there is concern about how to reuse a structure instead of demolishing it. Fiala noted that the hospital has an option to buy it but doesn't know for what purpose they would do that. Lankton then asked if anything is being done to acquire and use the Quincy Pay Office. Yarbrough said QMHA is still interested in acquiring that building and have some

options they are pursuing. He added that it is one of the buildings being looked at by the Children's Museum.

Lankton suggested that perhaps a study of the vistas, major sites, and historical features on the Keweenaw landscape should be done in order to determine what should be left intact such as the poor rock piles at the Central location Eckert spoke of earlier. This could lay the foundation to begin teaching people why a certain landscape feature should be left untouched. If documentation and recommendations of the Keweenaw landscape were in place, then it wouldn't be necessary to fight every battle case by case and better planning could take place.

Committee Reports

The Finance and Operation Committee and the Preservation Planning Committee had no reports to make.

New Business

Fiala spoke about the plan to relocate the Seaman Mineral Museum. Josef Balachowski has spent a considerable amount of time and travel to confer with retired architect, John Haro, who is donating his time on the scheme to relocate the museum from Michigan Tech to the blacksmith and machine shop on Quincy Hill. A rendering of the plans done by John Haro was displayed to show what may be possible to adaptively reuse some of the buildings at Quincy. Fiala added that having a facility with that type of stature and class within the park on Quincy Hill will entirely change the demographics there. A project such as this demonstrates how issues such as the water tower, cultural landscape, and traffic flow become important and can have a significant effect on other things. Fiala said that he is also keeping the state of Michigan informed of the project for their possible future involvement.

Stan Dyl, director of the Seaman Museum, was introduced and explained that the present museum initially focused on support of the mineralogy and science programs at Michigan Tech and, then secondarily, on the general public. However, in the last 20 years the focus has shifted. It still supports science programs at Tech, but the museum's public responsibility and outreach has grown tremendously. The museum right now lacks two critical things -- accessibility and visibility. In addition, it lacks space to grow, to do interpretive programs and exhibits -- all the things that are necessary for a full blooded museum to operate. The cost estimate for a project of this magnitude would be about 6.6 million dollars but in reality closer to 10 million dollars. Looking at the current visitation on Quincy Hill right now shows that the operational maintenance costs per square foot would be self-sustainable. Dyl said he has university presidential approval to proceed with planning and to see if fund raising can be developed. He is working with John Sellars, Senior Vice President for Advancement and University Relations at MTU, to coordinate fund raising. Dyl spoke of a current museum patron who is a serious mineral collector and also a Milwaukee industrialist who pledged a substantial gift to help make the project a reality.

Balachowski explained that every effort will be made to see that new construction will not infringe on the landscape or ruins in the area. The new facility is designed to be compatible with existing buildings but still be a valuable piece of architecture onto itself.

Balachowski also cautioned that plans are preliminary and nothing is set in stone yet.

Comments from legislative staff

Amy Wisti of Bart Stupak's office said that with regard to park amendments she spoke with Justin Zimmerman of Washington D.C., who works on park issues and interior issues, and he has indicated that work will begin on the actual interior bills beginning August 17. Stupak will be visiting the Keweenaw this summer but doesn't have a definite date yet.

Comments from the NPS Midwest Field Office

Al Hutchings said he doesn't have any specifics to report other than that he is very pleased with the how well things are moving along here at Keweenaw thanks to the efforts of the park staff as well as so many others.

Comments and question from the public

Ed Yarbrough reported on the activities QMHA saying that the association is removing seven of their billboards and will consolidate to just a few signs. The association is hoping to stabilize two small buildings at the Quincy site. Larry Lankton suggested to Yarbrough that QMHA consider stabilizing the #6 Quincy dry house, too. The QMHA is also in the process of purchasing land south of the #2 shaft house. Yarbrough added that the Quincy board members fully support the plan to move the museum to Quincy Hill and will help to facilitate the plan in any way that they can.

Erik Nordberg of the MTU Archives invited people to come to the archives to view 30 models of mining company houses done by undergraduate students of Professor Kim Hoagland's Social Sciences architectural history class. He also said that the Copper Country Historical Resource partnership group is going to do some documentation of cemeteries located in four different counties.

On a motion by Clarence Dwyer and seconded by Larry Lankton, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 25, 1998.